



Bosnia UPDATE

A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces by the Staff of the Committee on National Security.

Alfred Spence, Chairman

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Quotes of the Week:

"This is not peace, but the absence of war. When the Serbs signed the Dayton agreement they were required to let our people go home, and if they do not abide by this agreement I will make sure that their Republic of Srpska is abolished."

-- *Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic*,
9/2/96

"Our soldiers are not required to fire warning shots...They are trained and authorized to shoot to kill...Yesterday the soldiers chose to fire a warning shot. The next time the consequences could be fatal."

-- *U.S. Admiral Joseph Lopez, IFOR commander, commenting on a confrontation between NATO troops and two hostile Serb groups in Sarajevo*,
9/6/96

"None of the Dayton Accords' goals for Bosnia is achievable without the massive use of force."

-- *Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state*, 9/8/96

"The U.S. Government has not begun to consider if any follow-on force will be needed. This is something that NATO will begin looking into after the elections."

-- *Ken Bacon, Pentagon spokesman*,
9/11/96

"After nine months, we have failed to change the hearts and minds of the people there. That is true. But that was never part of the Dayton process."

-- *John Kornblum, Assistant Secretary of State*, 9/13/96

"The best we can hope for is a reasonably democratic electoral process...To call them 'free and fair' is stretching it."

-- *Robert Frowick, former U.S. diplomat overseeing the vote in Bosnia*,
9/13/96

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

Projected winners of the presidential election are announced. Alija Izetbegovic (Muslim), Momcila Krajisnik (Serb) and Kresimir Zubak (Croat) are the leading candidates, with Izetbegovic expected to win the chairmanship of the three-member rotating presidency.

Approximately 640,000 Bosnian citizens cast ballots in over 55 countries, including the United States, during the course of a week. Most are refugees who were displaced during the 1992 - 1995 Balkan war. It is estimated that some 20,000 Bosnians now live in the U.S.

NATO officials announce they are drafting plans for a follow-on force, IFOR-2, to stay in Bosnia for another two years. "Secretary Perry has said that the only reason a follow-on force might be necessary is to prevent an outbreak of war," says DOD spokesman Ken Bacon.

Four Muslim buildings in Sarajevo are destroyed by bombs during nighttime raids by the Serbs. "It is 'a message to the Muslims' that they are unwelcome in the area", says Kris Janowski, a UN spokesman.

Bosnian Serb indicted war

criminal Gojko Jankovic is not identified by NATO soldiers sitting near him at a cafe in Foca in southeastern Bosnia. Jankovic is a candidate for political office.

Suspected Serbian war criminal and leader of the Party of Serbian Unity, Zeljko Raznatovic, a.k.a. "Arkan," announces that he will not run. Like other parties, the Party of Serbian Unity receives approximately \$200,000 in campaign funding from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is responsible for overseeing the election process.

OSCCE fields complaints from political parties regarding the public display of Radovan Karadzic's picture. Karadzic's picture cannot be displayed at public political rally's since he was indicted on war crimes by The Hague. They fine the Serbian Democratic Party \$50,000 for a "serious breach" of the Dayton accord.

A Ukrainian soldier is shot and killed by a comrade who mistakes him for an intruder outside a Sarajevo warehouse containing election ballots and other voting materials.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili travels to Tuzla, in northern Bosnia, for a conference with U.S. commanders and to meet with Russian troops.

Croatia and Yugoslavia conduct formal diplomatic ceremonies in

official recognition of each other. The agreement was struck by the foreign ministers two weeks ago.

U.S. ground troops transport and deliver election day ballots, boxes and other voting supplies to polling centers in and around Tuzla.

Richard Holbrooke, the architect of the Dayton peace accord and former Assistant Secretary of State, travels to Bosnia to monitor the September 14 elections. The delegation "will be observing the elections on behalf of the president," says Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman.

The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo demands that President Izetbegovic expel all remaining mujaheddin or Middle Eastern fighters. They also warn American citizens not to travel to Bocinja Donja in central Bosnia where they are known to be active.

Around 60-70 percent of the estimated 3 million eligible voters took to the polls in the first national presidential and parliamentary elections since 1990. There is minimal violence reported on election day, as American troops escort buses and people crossing ethnic lines to get to the polls.

In Washington:

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili says, "We have to have more clarity on what the conditions will be and, if there is going to be a [follow on] force, what kind of mission that force will have...There is a whole host of questions that have to be addressed before we get to the point of how long, how big, who will command it...I can tell you that the planning that is going on is how to withdraw the forces at the conclusion of the mandate. There is no other planning going on, at least not in the United States."

The Clinton Administration announces that it supports the timetable for elections, even though some critics say they will not be fair. "This process will continue and grow as elected officials begin to work with each other to form and run a common government," says Assistant Secretary of State John Kornblum.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies says, "There will be a constant need for American leadership after the elections to keep the peace process on track."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright claims U.S. ground troops will be out by December 20, 1996. "It is my understanding that they will be and that other plans at this moment are premature. There are discussions of contingency plans, but talking about American ground forces after Dec. 20 is premature...clearly [there] will be a need to have some continued international presence in Bosnia."

OSCE spokesman Agota Kuperman says the election "was almost entirely free of abuse. The International observers...have been well satisfied with the arrangements they observed."

Republican Presidential candidate Robert Dole says, "There is no freedom of movement in Bosnia. There is increasing violence and intimidation of opposition party members and their candidates. And war criminals are not just roaming free; some are even on the ballot."

In Bonn:

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl tells parliament he believes German forces will have to remain in Bosnia after the scheduled December

withdrawal of IFOR ground forces, saying, "...after the end of the IFOR mission, the difficult peace process must be secured...I cannot imagine we will talk about peace in our own country on Christmas Eve after watching pictures on television showing the exact opposite."

Compliance Watch:

Bosnian Croat leaders in Mostar ignore a U.S. brokered deadline forbidding the "ultra-nationalist Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna" from existing in southwest Bosnia.

NATO sources state that Iranian-sponsored terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad are active in Bosnia, which is a direct violation of the Dayton accord.

NATO forces catch Serb police transporting illegal heavy weapons across the city of Banja Luka. Included is an armored car, a machine gun, an anti-aircraft system and rocket launchers. U.S. Admiral Lope, IFOR Commander, demands that acting Serb President Biljana Plavsic explain this gross violation of the Dayton accord.

Previous issues of the Update are archived on the world wide web site of the House National Security Committee at: <http://www.house.gov/nsc/bosnia.htm>. Additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372), David Trachtenberg (x60532), Will Marsh (x56045) on the Committee staff.